

Safety center commander joins shuttle crash investigation panel

The Air Force chief of safety and Air Force Safety Center commander is among the members of a panel investigating the Columbia space shuttle disaster over Texas Feb. 1.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hess joined the Space Shuttle Mishap Inter-agency Investigation Board that includes a command-level plans and programs director, a brigadier general from the 21st Space Wing, a naval safety center rear admiral and a retired navy admiral.

The panel will provide an independent review of the events and activities that led to the deaths of seven astronauts aboard the space shuttle. Hess was honored to be part of the distinguished, hand-picked group investigating the accident.

When the shuttle was lost, military commanders in the local area provided support when requested by the civilian authorities in crisis response mode. Several DOD installations supported the operation by providing rotary and fixed wing air assets.

As the investigations proceeded, North-

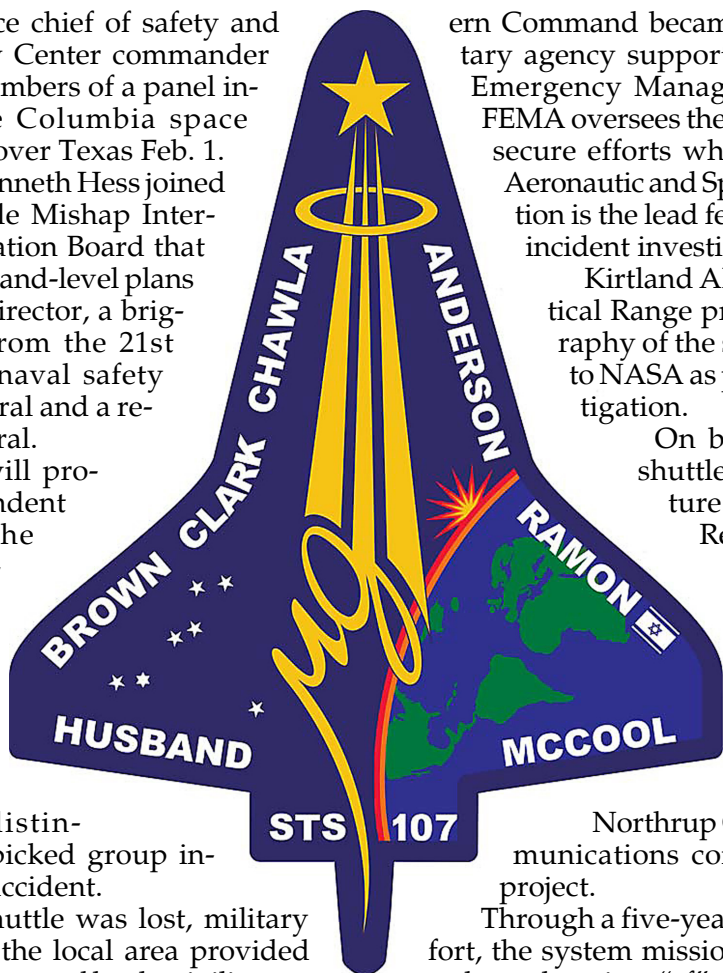
ern Command became the lead military agency supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA oversees the search, find and secure efforts while the National Aeronautic and Space Administration is the lead federal agency for incident investigation.

Kirtland AFB's Starfire Optical Range provided photography of the shuttle's reentry to NASA as part of the investigation.

On board the space shuttle was the Miniature Satellite Threat Reporting System, a product of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate through contract with

Northrup Grumman, communications contractor for the project.

Through a five-year, \$12 million effort, the system mission was detecting and geo-locating "rf" radio frequency signals on the ground from space. The experiment was an effort to better understand geographical source and patterns of the rf emissions on Earth to avoid interfering with orbiting spacecraft and routine missions.



VA hospital invites public to visit hospitalized vets

The New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System observes the 25th annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, Feb. 9-15, with several events occurring at the Albuquerque Veterans Affairs Medical Center:

★ **Feb. 9,** The Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary, supreme hospital visitation, 1 p.m.

★ **Feb. 10,** Opening ceremony, lobby of Building 41 (main medical facility), 9:30 a.m., with refreshments and music, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

★ **Feb. 11,** Col. Kathleen Close, 377th Air Base Wing commander, meets with veterans, 2 p.m.

★ **Feb. 12,** Col. Steven Bower, 377th Air Base Wing vice commander, visits inpatients, 1 p.m.; Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary provides a special distribution on Ward 3A and the Salvation Army conducts a special distribution to hospitalized veterans.

★ **Feb. 13,** The American Legion Auxiliary distributes valentines and fruit to inpatients.

★ **Feb. 14,** The Avenue of Flags exhibited, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Congresswoman Heather Wilson, 1st District, N.M., and students from the 21st Century Charter School, Albuquerque, visit hospitalized veterans, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; 77th Army Band, Fort Sill, Okla., holds a concert in the lobby of Building 41, 2 p.m.; and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 32 distributes carnations and valentines to inpatients.

This observance recognizes those courageous men and women who served in the U.S. military, encourages our country's citizens to visit hospitalized veterans, as well as to work as volunteers at their local Veterans Affairs' medical facility.

For more information or for details on volunteer opportunities, contact the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Health Care System's Voluntary Service, 256-2771.

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Stephen Raye and the staff for Billy Shears & Flickerville Studio's met with Ms. Bodlin personally on behalf of 30 actors/extras for this film production.

For those individuals who chose Billy Shears & Flickerville Studio's as a representative, these people were able to wait in a three (3) room suite adjacent to the ballroom where Ms. Bodlin and her staff took applications from the general public. Comfortable amenities were provided along with juices, water and light finger food.

Because of an organized representation for these actors, there was less stress and better interaction with all waiting for Ms. Bodlin's call to Stephen to bring Billy Shears & Flickerville's catalog down to her.

Ms. Bodlin was very pleased and thanked Stephen for the submission of Billy Shears and Flickerville Studio's personally assembled photo headshot/resumé catalog. Ms. Bodlin desired to keep the catalog for "The Missing" production and stated "she would continue to review it and chose actors from the catalog also for future productions" that she will be involved with. Ms. Bodlin instructed Stephen Raye to continue submitting Billy Shears & Flickerville Studio's clients photo headshot/resumés to her offices and to her personal address.

Over four thousand actors/extras came to this casting call for "The Missing". Many of the individuals there never made it into the Radisson hotel ballroom where Ms. Bodlin and her staff were assembled to review the general public applications.

If you desire to be placed in Billy Shears & Flickerville Studio's photo headshot/resumé catalog for other production companies casting directors to see, contact Roxanne Verette at their studio's for an appointment with Mr. Robert Seymour (world famous cinematographer, photographer, producer and director) and Stephen Raye (co-owner, actors agent, acclaimed Hollywood make-up artist).

505.286.0125 Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm. You may also leave a message with their message service also.

DENTAL HEALTH

Good habits get mothers through pregnancy with few problems

BY REBECCA J. GOTTHEIMER

377th Dental Squadron

To minimize the chance of oral health problems during pregnancy, women should have a thorough exam and cleaning prior to conceiving or shortly thereafter.

Fillings, extractions or other necessary treatment completed early could prevent bigger problems later. Emergency dental care can be completed at any time but dental procedures are best scheduled during the second trimester. X-rays can be safely taken using a lead apron to protect both mother and baby. With proper care, good oral health can be a part of a healthy pregnancy.

If your gums are in good health before pregnancy, then the chances of developing pregnancy gingivitis are greatly reduced. Pregnancy gingivitis is an inflammation or swelling, redness and bleeding of the gum tissues. Most cases of gingivitis are due to poor oral hygiene. Bacterial plaque forms on the teeth and when not

removed daily by brushing and flossing can lead to red, swollen and bleeding gums.

The "old wives tale" of "losing a tooth for every pregnancy" is based on misconceptions that oral problems during pregnancy are a normal occurrence and cannot be prevented. Even though hormonal changes are occurring, making the pregnant woman more at risk for developing pregnancy gingivitis, a woman with excellent oral hygiene should not expect problems because of pregnancy.

Prevention

★ Brush your teeth with a fluoride toothpaste at least three times a day. Use a soft toothbrush and brush the chewing surface, the cheek side and tongue side of the teeth. Brushing should take 2-3 minutes. Replace your toothbrush every three months.

★ Floss your teeth daily to remove plaque that is in-between the teeth and where your brush doesn't reach.

★ Visit your dentist and dental hygienist regularly for advice and therapy.

VITA Tax Center walk-in tax preparation tomorrow-Feb. 15

Who: The VITA Tax Center is an IRS-sponsored tax preparation site set up for the benefit of active duty and retired military personnel.

What: The Tax Center electronically prepares and transmits federal and state income tax returns. Electronic deposits of your tax refunds can be made within two weeks.

Where: The Tax Center is located in Building 20406. The most direct entrance to the center is through the Legal Assistance area at the south side of the building.

When: The hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Special Saturday hours from 8 a.m. -3 p.m. have been arranged for tomorrow and Feb. 15.

How: Visit the Tax Center Web site, www.kirtland.af.mil/taxcentr/index.htm, or call 853-1700 to arrange an appointment and find out what you have to do before showing up to have your taxes prepared. Appointments are being scheduled for times and dates starting Feb. 18.

Note: From now until Feb. 15, the Tax Center is preparing only 1040EZ and 1040A tax returns on a walk-in basis.

Learn about the Tuskegee Airman

A presentation featuring guest speakers John Allen and retired Air Force Col. Richard Toliver is Feb. 15, 11 a.m., at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial on Louisiana Boulevard Northeast, just north of Gibson Boulevard.

For information on the program with the second generation Tuskegee Airmen, contact 1st Lt. William Parker, 853-8084.

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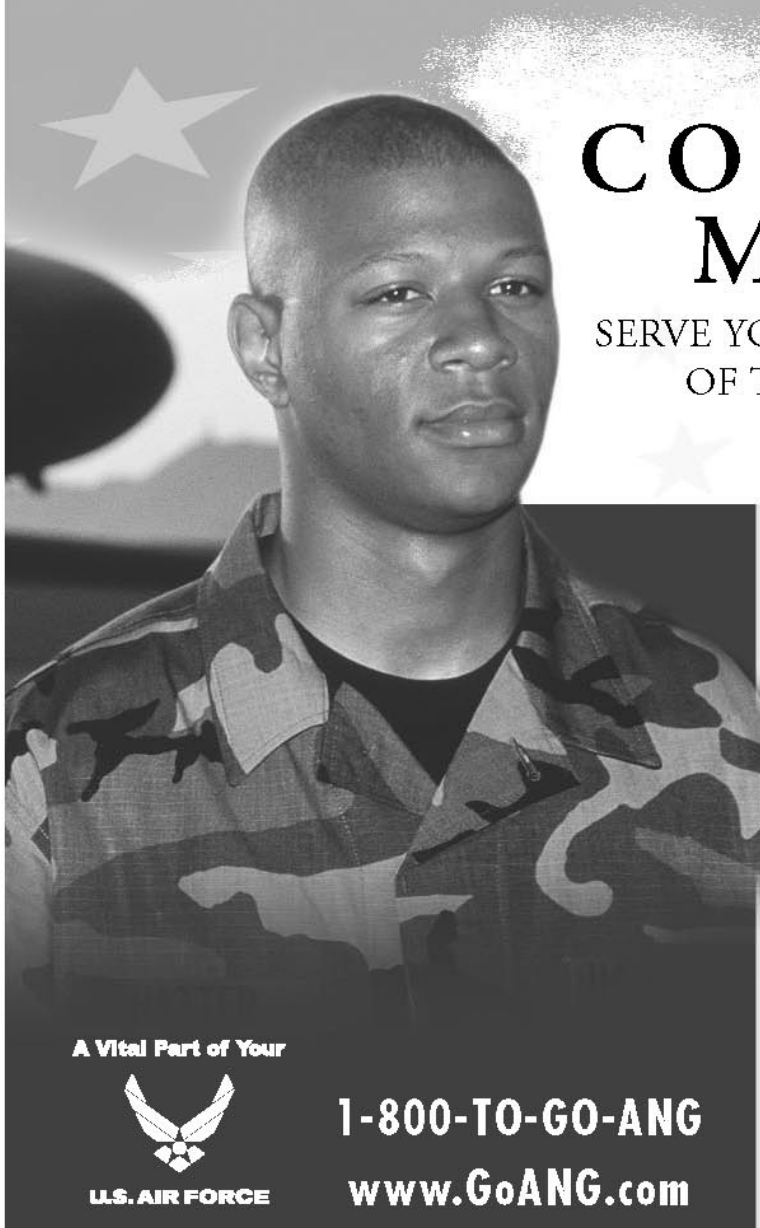
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